



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

NHTSA Seat Belts on School Buses Public Meeting

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Member

July 11, 2007

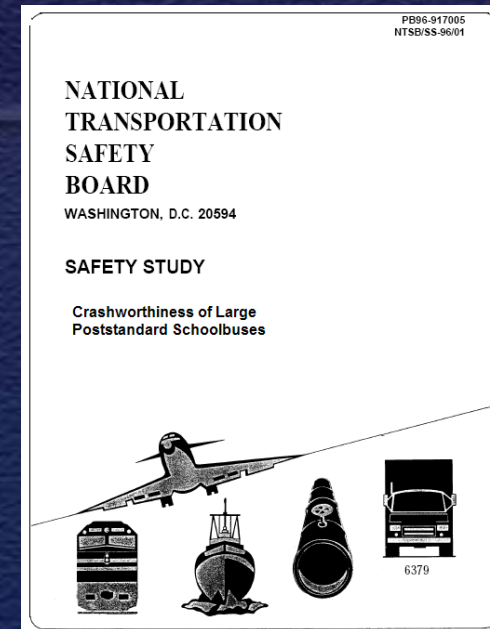
NTSB's Role in Highway Safety

- Independent Federal Agency
- 5 Member Board
 - President appointed
 - Senate confirmed
- 400 Staff (29 in Highway)
- Investigates accidents in all modes of transportation
- Determine probable cause
- Issue recommendations

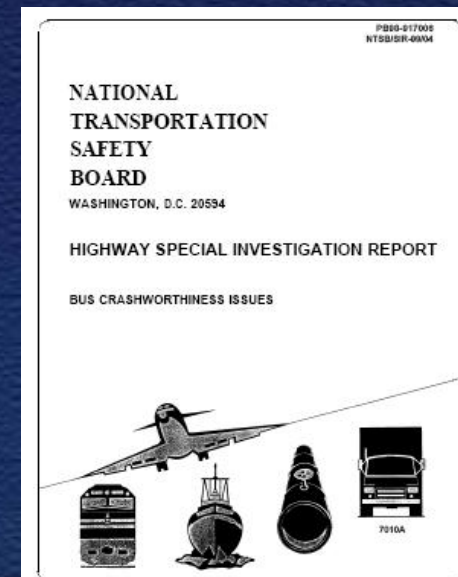
School Bus Safety

- Safety Board sees some of the most dramatic and, unfortunately, fatal accidents.
- Side impacts with other large vehicles, tractor-trailer or train, or
- Fixed object or severe rollover

1987 Crashworthiness of Large Post- Standard School Buses



1999 Bus Crashworthiness Issues



Crashworthiness Findings

- School bus passengers that remained within the compartment were less likely to be injured
- Current compartmentalization is incomplete in that it does not protect passengers in lateral impacts and rollovers

Monticello, MN

Monticello, Minnesota



NTSB



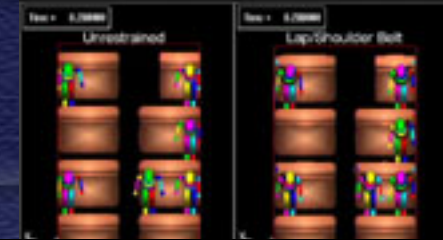
Monticello, MN (animation)



NTSB



Monticello, MN (animation)



Monticello, Minnesota

Restrained Occupants
Lap/Shoulder Belts

1/10th Speed

Monticello, MN

Predicted Head Injuries

Unrestrained

Lap Belt

Lap/Shoulder Belt



3

4

5

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Holmdel, NJ



Holmdel, New Jersey

NTSB



Holmdel, NJ



Holmdel, NJ (animation)



Holmdel, NJ

Predicted Head Injuries



Crashworthiness Recommendations to NHTSA

- Develop crashworthiness performance standards and require newly manufactured school buses to have an occupant crash protection system that retains passengers within the seating compartment throughout the accident sequence for all accident scenarios.

School Bus Crashworthiness Added to Most Wanted List in Nov. 2006

Actions needed by States

HIGHWAY

Improve Child Occupant Protection

- Enact State laws requiring booster seats for young children.

Enact Primary Seat Belt Enforcement Laws

- Increase the number of people who wear seat belts through stronger enforcement laws.

Promote Youth Highway Safety

- Enact graduated driver licensing legislation.
- Restrict the number of teen passengers traveling with young novice drivers.
- Prohibit use of wireless communications devices by young novice drivers.

Eliminate Hard Core Drinking Driving

- Enact State legislation and take other actions that are proven to reduce crashes involving those who repeatedly drink large amounts of alcohol and drive including:
 - Frequent, statewide sobriety checkpoints.
 - Legislation to create stricter sanctions for those arrested the first time with a high blood alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher.
 - Zero blood alcohol requirement for convicted DWI offenders when they get their license back.
 - Administrative rather than court-based license revocation for refusing to take or failing the sobriety test.
 - Vehicle sanctions for DWI offenders.
 - Eliminate plea-bargaining DWI offenses and programs that divert offenders and purge the offense record.
 - Retain DWI records for at least 10 years to identify and prosecute repeat offenders.
 - Develop and operate special sanction court-based programs for hard core DWI offenders.

Improve School Bus/Grade Crossing Safety

- Install stop signs at passive crossings.
- Upgrade school bus railroad crossings that only have warning signs to crossings with lights and gates.
- Install switches on new buses that allow drivers to turn off radios and other devices that mask the sound of train warning horns.
- Enhance bus driver training and evaluation.
- Include grade crossing questions on commercial driver's license exams.

MARINE

Enhance Recreational Boating Safety

- Require mandatory education of boat operators.
- Require use of life jackets by children.
- Require safety instruction prior to personal watercraft rental.

November 2006



NTSB MOST WANTED

Transportation Safety
Improvements

2007

*Critical changes needed to reduce
transportation accidents and save lives.*

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